

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE



**OFFICIAL WARNING  
VIOLATION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

**CASE NUMBER:**

NC120005-AC

**VIOLATOR:**

John Highsmith

**ADDRESS (Street, City, State,**

**ZIP Code):**

429 Eagleton Road

Maryville, TN 37804

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has evidence that on or about the date(s) listed below, you or your organization committed the following violation(s) of Federal Regulations:

**Date of Violation: October 8, 2011**

**15 U.S.C. § 1824(2)(B)** Unlawful acts (entering).

You entered a bilaterally sore and scarred horse (Masati), for the purpose of showing or exhibiting in the NCCWHS.

**Date of Violation: October 8, 2011**

**9 C.F.R. § 11.3 (a)** Scar rule.

The scar rule applies to all horses born on or after October 1, 1975. Horses subject to this rule that do not meet the...scar rule criteria shall be considered to be "sore" and are subject to all prohibitions of section 5 of the Act.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) created federal regulations to ensure the welfare of animals and help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases. Since violations of the regulations can have serious and costly impacts that are detrimental to the public interest, APHIS is providing you with an Official Warning for the violation(s) described above. Any further violation of these federal regulations may result in the assessment of a civil penalty, criminal prosecution, or other sanctions. If you have any questions concerning this Official Warning or violation(s), please contact the APHIS official listed in this notice.

**APHIS OFFICIAL (Name):**

Robert J. Huttenlocker

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**

4700 River Road, Unit 85  
Riverdale, MD 20737

**APHIS OFFICIAL (Title):**

Director, Investigative and Enforcement Services

**DATE ISSUED:**  
8/9/2012

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:**  
(301) 851-2948